Numb. 15186.

The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1799.

Downing-Street, September 24, 1799.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been this Day received from Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of York, by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Head-Quarters, Schagen Brug,
Sept. 20, 1799.

SIR,

IN my Dispatch of the 16th Instant I acquainted you with my Intention of making an Attack upon the Whole of the Enemy's Position, the Moment that the Reinforcements joined.

Upon the 19th, every necessary Arrangement being made, the Army moved forward in Four principal Columns in the following Order:

The Left Column, under the Command of Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, consisting of
Two Squadrons of the 18th Light Dragoons,
Major-General the Earl of Chatham's Brigade,
Major-General Moore's Brigade,
Major-General the Earl of Cavan's Brigade,
First Battalion of British Grenadiers of the Line,
First Battalion of Light Infantry of the Line;
The 23d and 55th Regiments under Colonel Macdonald,
destined to turn the Enemy's Right on the Zuyder Zee, marched at Six o'Clock on the Evening of the 18th.

The Columns upon the Right, the First commanded by Lieutenant-General D'Hermann, consisting of
The 7th Light Dragoons,
Twelve Battalions of Russians, and
Major-General Manners' Brigade;
the Second, commanded by Lieutenant-General Dundas, consisting of
Two Squadrons of the 11th Light Dragoons,
Two Brigades of Foot Guards, and
Major-General His Highness Prince William's Brigade;
the Third Column, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney, consisting of
Two Squadrons of the 11th Light Dragoons,
Major-General Don's Brigade,
Major-General Coote's Brigade;
marched from the Positions they occupied at Day-break the Morning of the 19th. The Object of the First Column was, to drive the Enemy from the Heights of Camper Duyne, the Villages under these Heights, and finally to take Possession of Bergen: the Second was to force the Enemy's Position at Walmenhuysen and Schoreldam, and to co-operate with the Column under Lieutenant-General D'Hermann: and the Third, to take Possession of Ouds Carspel at the Head of the Lange Dyke, a great Road leading to Alkmaer.

It is necessary to observe, that the Country in which we had to act, presented in every Direction the most formidable Obstacles. The Enemy upon their Left occupied to great Advantage the High Sand-Hills which extend from the Sea in front of Petten to the Town of Bergen, and were entrenched in Three intermediate Villages. The Country over which the Columns under Lieutenant-Generals Dundas and Sir James Pulteney had to move for the Attack of the fortified Posts of Walmenhuysen, Schoreldam, and the Lange Dyke, is a Plain intersected every Three or Four Hundred Yards by broad deep wet Ditches and Canals. The Bridges across the only Two or Three Roads which led to these Places were destroyed, and Abbatis were laid at different Distances.

Lieutenant-General D'Hermann's Column commenced its Attack, which was conducted with the greatest Spirit and Gallantry, at Half past Three

o'Clock in the Morning, and by Eight had ſucceeded in ſo great a Degree as to be in Poſſeſſion of Bergen. In the wooded Country which ſurrounds this Village the principal Force of the Enemy was placed, and the Ruſſian Troops, advancing with an Intrepidity which overlooked the formidable Reſiſtance with which they were to meet, had not retained that Order which was neceſſary to preſerve the Advantages they had gained; and they were, in conſequence, after a moſt vigorous Reſiſtance, obliged to retire from Bergen, (where, I am much concerned to ſtate, Lieutenants-General D'Hermann and Tchertchekoff were made Priſoners, the latter dangerouſly wounded,) and fell back upon Schorel, which Village they were alſo forced to abandon, but which was immediately retaken by Major-General Manners' Brigade, notwithſtanding the very heavy Fire of the Enemy. Here this Brigade was immediately reinforced by Two Battalions of Ruſſians, which had co-operated with Lieutenant-General Dundas in the Attack of Walmenhuyſen, by Major-General D'Oyley's Brigade of Guards, and by the 35th Regiment under the Command of his Highneſs Prince William. The Action was renewed by theſe Troops for a conſiderable Time with Succeſs; but the entire Want of Ammunition on the Part of the Ruſſians, and the exhauſted State of the whole Corps engaged in that particular Situation, obliged them to retire, which they did in good Order, upon Petten and the Zyper Sluys.

As ſoon as it was ſufficiently light, the Attack upon the Village of Walmenhuyſen, where the Enemy was ſtrongly poſted with Cannon, was made by Lieutenant-General Dundas. Three Battalions of Ruſſians, who formed a ſeparate Corps, deſtined to co-operate from Krabbendam in this Attack, commanded by Major-General Sedmoratzky, very gallantly ſtormed the Village on its Left Flank, while at the ſame Time it was entered on the Right by the 1ſt Regiment of Guards. The Grenadier Battalion of the Guards had been previouſly detached to march upon Schoreldam, on the Left of Lieutenant-General D'Hermann's Column, as was the 3d Regiment of Guards and the 2d Battalion of the 5th Regiment, to keep up the Communication with that under Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney.—The Remainder of Lieutenant-General Dundas's Column, which, after taking Poſſeſſion of Walmenhuyſen, had been joined by the Firſt Battalion of the Fifth Regiment, marched againſt Schoreldam, which Place they maintained, under a very heavy and galling Fire, until the Troops engaged on their Right had retired at the Concluſion of the Action.

The Column under Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney proceeded to its Object of Attack at the Time appointed, and after overcoming the greateſt Difficulties and the moſt determined Oppoſition, carried by Storm the principal Poſt of Ouds Carſpel at the Head of the Lange Dyke; upon which Occaſion the 40th Regiment, under the Command of Colonel Spencer, embraced a favorable Opportunity which preſented itſelf of highly diſtinguiſhing themſelves.

This Point was defended by the chief Force of the Batavian Army under the Command of General Daendels. The Circumſtances, however, which occurred on the Right rendered it impoſſible to profit by this brilliant Exploit, which will ever reflect the higheſt Credit on the General Officers and Troops engaged in it; and made it neceſſary to withdraw Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney's Column from the Poſition which he had taken within a ſhort Diſtance of Alkmaer. The ſame Circumſtances led to the Neceſſity of recalling the Corps under Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, who had proceeded without Interruption to Hoorne, of which City he had taken Poſſeſſion, together with its Garriſon.

The Whole of the Army has therefore re-occupied its former Poſition.

The well-grounded Hopes I had entertained of complete Succeſs in this Operation, and which were fully juſtified by the Reſult of the Three, and by the Firſt Succeſſes of the Fourth Attack upon the Right, add to the great Diſappointment I muſt naturally feel on this Occaſion; but the Circumſtances which have occurred I ſhould have conſidered of very little general Importance, had I not to lament the Loſs of many brave Officers and Soldiers, both of His Majeſty's and the Ruſſian Troops, who have fallen.

The Gallantry diſplayed by the Troops engaged, the Spirit with which they overcame every Obſtacle which Nature and Art oppoſed to them, and the Cheerfulneſs with which they maintained the Fatigues of an Action which laſted without Intermiſſion from Half paſt Three o'Clock in the Morning until Five in the Afternoon, are beyond my Powers to deſcribe or to extol. Their exertions fully entitle them to the Admiration and Gratitude of their King and Country.

Having thus faithfully detailed the Events of this Firſt Attack, and paid the Tribute of Regret due to the diſtinguiſhed Merit of thoſe who fell, I have much Conſolation in being enabled to ſtate that the Efforts which have been made, although not crowned with immediate Succeſs, ſo far from militating againſt the general Object of the Campaign, promiſe to be highly uſeful to our future Operations. The Capture of Sixty Officers and upwards of Three Thouſand Men, and the Deſtruction of Sixteen Pieces of Cannon, with large Supplies of Ammunition, which the interſected Nature of the Country did not admit of being withdrawn, are convincing Proofs that the Loſs of the Enemy in the Field has been far ſuperior to our own; and in addition to this it is material to ſtate that nearly Fifteen Thouſand of the Allied Troops had unavoidably no Share in this Action.

In viewing the ſeveral Circumſtances which occurred during this arduous Day, I cannot avoid expreſſing the Obligations I owe to Lieutenant-Generals Dundas and Sir James Pulteney for their able Aſſiſtance, and alſo to mention my great Satisfaction at the Conduct of Major-Generals His Highneſs Prince William, D'Oyley, Manners, Burrard, and Don, to whoſe ſpirited Exertions the Credit gained by the Brigades they commanded is greatly to be imputed.

Captain Sir Home Popham and the ſeveral Officers of my Staff exerted themſelves to the utmoſt, and rendered me moſt eſſential Service. I feel alſo much indebted to the ſpirited Conduct of a Detachment of Seamen, under the Direction of Sir Home Popham and Captain Godfrey of the Navy, in the Conduct of Three Gun Boats, each carrying One

12 Pound Carronade, which acted with conſiderable Effect on the Alkmaer Canal; nor muſt I omit expreſſing my Acknowledgments to the Ruſſian Major-Generals Eſſen, Sedmoratzky, and Schutorff.

I tranſmit herewith Returns of the Killed, Wounded, and Miſſing.

I am, Sir, yours,

FREDERICK.

P. S. Not having yet received Returns of the Loſs ſuſtained by the Ruſſian Troops, I can only obſerve, that I underſtand their Loſs in killed, wounded, and miſſing, amounts to near 1500 Men.

Head-Quarters, Schagen Brug,
September 20, 1799.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Miſſing, of His Majeſty's Forces under the Command of His Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, in the Action of the 19th September.

11th Regiment of Light Dragoons.—1 Rank and File wounded.

Grenadier Battalion of Guards.—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Captain, 11 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Captain, 2 Serjeants, 44 Rank and File wounded; 4 Serjeants, 23 Rank and File miſſing.

3d Battalion of the 1ſt Regiment of Guards.—2 Rank and File killed; 2 Lieutenant-Colonels, 2 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 42 Rank and File wounded; 43 Rank and File miſſing.

1ſt Battalion of the Coldſtream Regiment of Guards.—1 Serjeant, 9 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Serjeant, 21 Rank and File wounded; 1 Serjeant, 13 Rank and File miſſing.

1ſt Battalion of the 3d Regiment of Guards.—1 Rank and File killed; 1 Serjeant, 1 Drummer, 17 Rank and File wounded.

27th Regiment of Foot. 1 Rank and File wounded.

1ſt Battalion of the 17th Regiment of Foot.—6 Rank and File killed; 2 Majors, 2 Captains, 2 Subalterns, 2 Serjeants, 34 Rank and File wounded, 3 Rank and File miſſing.

2d Battalion of Ditto.—2 Rank and File killed; 1 Major, 1 Subaltern, 19 Rank and File wounded

1ſt Battalion of the 40th Regiment of Foot.—1 Subaltern, 16 Rank and File killed; 1 Major, 4 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 47 Rank and File wounded; 1 Captain, 12 Rank and File miſſing.

2d Battalion of Ditto.—10 Rank and File killed; 3 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 4 Serjeants, 39 Rank and File wounded; 11 Rank and File miſſing.

1ſt Battalion of the 5th Regiment of Foot.—5 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Subaltern, 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 1 Rank and File wounded; 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 1 Rank and File miſſing.

1ſt Battalion of the 35th Regiment of Foot.—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Majors, 1 Captain, 3 Subalterns wounded; 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer miſſing.

1ſt Battalion of the 9th Regiment of Foot.—1 Subaltern, 1 Staff killed; 3 Subalterns wounded; 10 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 203 Rank and File miſſing.

2d Battalion of the 9th Regiment of Foot.—1 Captain, 1 Serjeant, 16 Rank and File killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Subaltern, 4 Serjeants, 46 Rank and File wounded; 1 Serjeant, 97 Rank and File miſſing.

56th Regiment of Foot.—30 Rank and File killed; 2 Captains, 1 Subaltern, 33 Rank and File wounded; 2 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 57 Rank and File miſſing.

Total.—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Captains, 2 Subalterns, 1 Staff, 2 Serjeants, 109 Rank and File killed; 7 Lieutenant-Colonels, 6 Majors, 15 Captains, 15 Subalterns, 20 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 345 Rank and File wounded; 22 Serjeants, 5 Drummers, 463 Rank and File miſſing.

Return of Officers killed, wounded, miſſing, and taken Priſoners.

Grenadier Battalion of Guards.—Lieutenant-Colonel Morris and Captain Gunthorpe, killed; Colonel Wynyard and Captain Neville, wounded.

3d Battalion of the 1ſt Guards.—Lieutenant-Colonel Cook, wounded; Lieutenant-Colonel Dawkins and Captain Forbes, wounded and taken Priſoners; Captain Henry Wheatley, wounded; Enſign D'Oyley, wounded and taken priſoner.

1ſt Battalion of the Coldſtream Guards.—Lieutenant Colonel Cunningham, wounded.

1ſt Battalion of the 17th Foot.—Major Grey, Major Cockburne, Captains Grace and Knight, wounded; Lieutenant Wickham, miſſing, ſuppoſed taken; Lieutenant Wilſon and Enſign Thomſon, wounded.

2d Battalion of the 17th Foot.—Major Wood and Lieutenant Saunders, wounded.

1ſt Battalion of the 40th Foot.—Enſign Elcomb, killed; Major Wingfield, Captains Dancer, Thompſon, Gear, Myers, and Lieutenant Williams, wounded; Captain O'Donnell, miſſing.

2d Battalion of Ditto. Captain Trollope, wounded, ſince dead; Captains Dancer and Thornton, and Lieutenant M'Pherſon, wounded.

1ſt Battalion of the 5th Foot.—Lieutenant-Colonel Stephenſon, wounded; Lieutenant Harris, wounded, ſince dead.

1ſt Battalion of the 35th Foot.—Lieutenant-Colonel Oſwald and Major Hay, wounded; Major Petit, wounded and taken Priſoner; Captain Manary, Enſigns Wilkinſon, Deane, and Jones, wounded.

1ſt Battalion of the 9th Foot.—Lieutenant Woodford and Quarter-Maſter Holles, killed; Lieutenant Smith, wounded and taken Priſoner; Lieutenants Grant and Rothwell, wounded.

2d Battalion of the 9th Foot.—Captain Balfour, killed; Lieutenant-Colonel Crew, wounded; Enſign French, wounded and taken Priſoner; Enſign Butter, miſſing.

56th Regiment of Foot.—Captains King and Gilman, and Lieutenant Prater, wounded.